



# Mid-Region Council of Governments of New Mexico

## More public input sought for long-range Transportation Plan

### **Positive response in three earlier meetings have prompted a 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting in Bernalillo**

(Albuquerque, NM January 11, 2007) – After three well-attended public workshops focusing on the development of the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Mid-Region Council of Governments has scheduled a 4<sup>th</sup> workshop to gather comments from residents of the Town of Bernalillo.

“We’ve had such a tremendous response from our earlier public workshops, that we want to make sure as many people in the region as possible have an opportunity to weigh in on the MTP”, says Lawrence Rael, Executive Director of the Mid-Region Council of Governments. “The MTP is the long-range transportation plan that addresses future mobility needs of the metropolitan area, including issues of congestion, maintaining air quality, and improving quality of life, so it is critical that folks in Bernalillo have an understanding of the impact of this plan – in both the short-term and long-term.”

The MRCOG forecasts population and Employment in the metro area will increase by 40% in the next 25 years, with much of the residential development occurring at the outer edges of the urbanized zone, and the majority of employment growth continuing along I-25 and I-40 in areas closer to the urban core. The impact of these growth patterns is projected to boost commute times significantly.

“There are many pieces to our transportation puzzle that weren’t available even just a few years ago, like the Rail Runner, Rapid Ride, and improved bicycle routes”, says Mayor Larry Abraham, Chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Board. “The MTB decides on the region’s transportation priorities, and that’s why working with neighboring communities and developing regional plans is critical. It’s about quality of life for the entire region.”

Through a recent series of public workshops, the MRCOG has been sharing regional transportation ideas with member governments, other stakeholders and members of the public. A fourth workshop will now take place in the Town of Bernalillo.

### **Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Workshop**

Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Bernalillo Town Hall  
829 Camino del Pueblo

Transportation projects represent a major investment of public and private money: The current long-range plan set the priorities for more than \$3.4 billion in projects and programs. Once the analysis of the proposed ideas and projects is complete, a Draft Plan will be presented for final public review and comment. The current timeline calls for a Draft Plan to be prepared by March of this year.

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